

Michigan Department of Community Health Fiscal Year 2008 Free Clinic Funding Summary Report

In fiscal year 2008, \$250,000 was allocated for the third consecutive year to the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) for equal distribution among free clinic organizations serving Michigan's indigent population. The Health Planning and Access to Care Section within the MDCH Health Policy, Regulations, & Professions Administration reviewed eligibility criteria, oversaw the application process, and managed purchase order agreements with those clinics awarded funding.

Eligibility criteria for the grant awards were developed by MDCH in collaboration with Free Clinics of Michigan (FCOM). Eligible clinics met the following criteria:

- The clinic must be located within Michigan and must provide health care services to the uninsured population of Michigan.
- The clinic or organization under which it operates must have 501(c)(3) or other nonprofit status.
- The majority of care provided through the clinic must come from volunteer health care professionals.
- Services provided by the clinic must be free of charge.
- Clients served must not have insurance coverage for the services provided.
- Less than 25% of revenue for the clinic can be 3rd party billing or government funding (separate from this allocation).

Utilizing an updated FCOM directory of free clinic organizations along with information obtained through the fiscal year 2007 grant application process, funding applications were distributed to 57 potential free clinic organizations throughout Michigan. The application period ran from November 16, 2007 to December 21, 2007. Given the limited grant writing resources of most applicant organizations, MDCH staff was available to assist clinics in completing the application. Forty-six applicants met the established criteria for funding and each of these organizations received an award of \$5,434.78. For a complete list of grantees, see the Appendix.

The 46 funded free clinic organizations were located in 30 counties across Michigan. Counties with multiple grantees include Calhoun (2 grantees), Kent (4 grantees), Macomb (2 grantees), Oakland (3 grantees), Ottawa (2 grantees), Saginaw (2 grantees), Washtenaw (2 grantees), and Wayne (7 grantees).

Figure 1. Distribution of Funded Free Clinic Age by Total Years of Operation in 2008

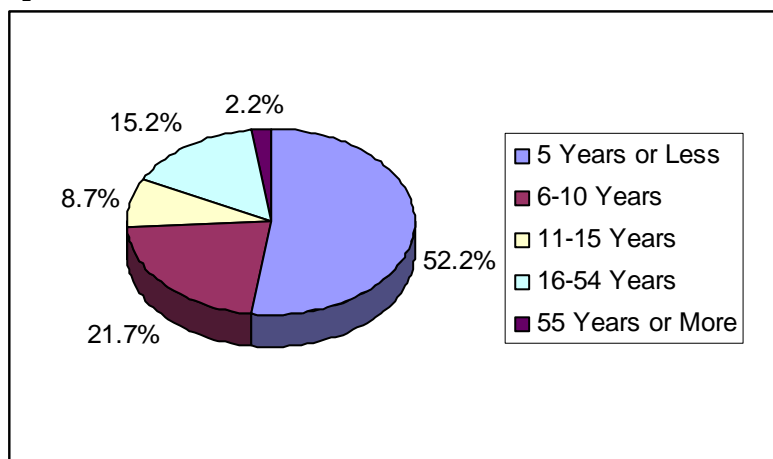
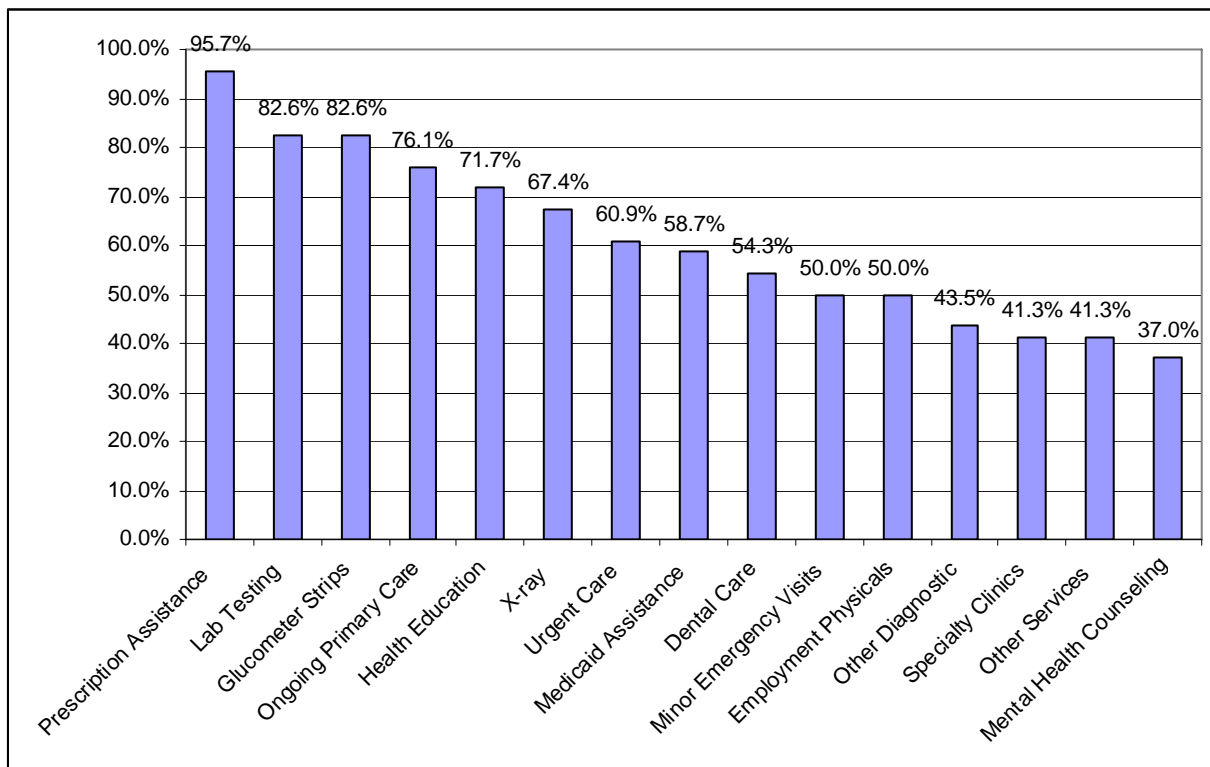


Figure 1 illustrates the distribution of funded free clinics in 5 groupings (0-5, 6-10, 11-15, 16-54, and 55 years or more in operation). Five year intervals were not used for the last two age groups due to the limited number of clinics within those ranges.

Funded organizations ranged in terms of years of operation from within their first year open, to in their 58th year. Fifty-two percent of funded organizations had been open 5 or fewer years; seventeen percent had been open more than 5 but fewer than 10 years; fourteen percent had been open more than 10 but fewer than 15 years; and seventeen percent had been open more than 15 years. Three funded organizations had been open 30 or more years.

According to information offered in the application process, funded organizations provide health care services during more than 8,300 uninsured visits each month (nearly 100,000 per year) through the assistance of clinical and administrative volunteers offering over 3,200 volunteer hours per week. The range of patient care services offered varies among clinics, but can include more than 13 healthcare services. The most common services offered by funded free clinics are prescription assistance (offered by 95.7% of funded clinics), lab testing and provision of glucometer strips (82.6%), and ongoing primary care (76.1%). Other services offered include but may not be limited to: health education classes, x-rays, urgent care, assistance applying for Medicaid or other insurance, dental care, minor emergency care, employment physicals, specialty clinics, and mental health counseling. See Figure 2 for more information.

Figure 2. Percentage of Funded Clinics Offering Specific Services by Service Type



For each service listed in Figure 2, the percentage shown represents the proportion of funded free clinics that reported offering the service at the time of their initial application.

Required reporting on grant expenditures indicated that the majority of funding through MDCH was used to support basic operational costs. Up from previous years, eighty percent of funded organizations used the funding to maintain their current operations. Fifteen percent of clinics reported using the funding to directly support an increase in service hours or patient care capacity during the funding period. Four percent of clinics used MDCH funds to directly support new programming at the clinic. New projects offered included a women's health clinic at one facility, and a movement to an electronic scheduling program at another clinic.

Nearly eighty three percent of funded agencies reported using a portion of the grant award toward clinical care expenses including prescription assistance programs and supplements to clinical staff. About seventy percent of funded agencies reported using a portion of the funds toward durable medical equipment and other medical and lab testing supplies. Forty-four percent of funded agencies reported using a portion of the funds toward administrative expenses including office equipment, and administrative services and salaries. See figure 3 for more information.

Figure 3. Percentage of Clinics Using MDCH Funding Towards Specific Expenditures by Expenditure Type

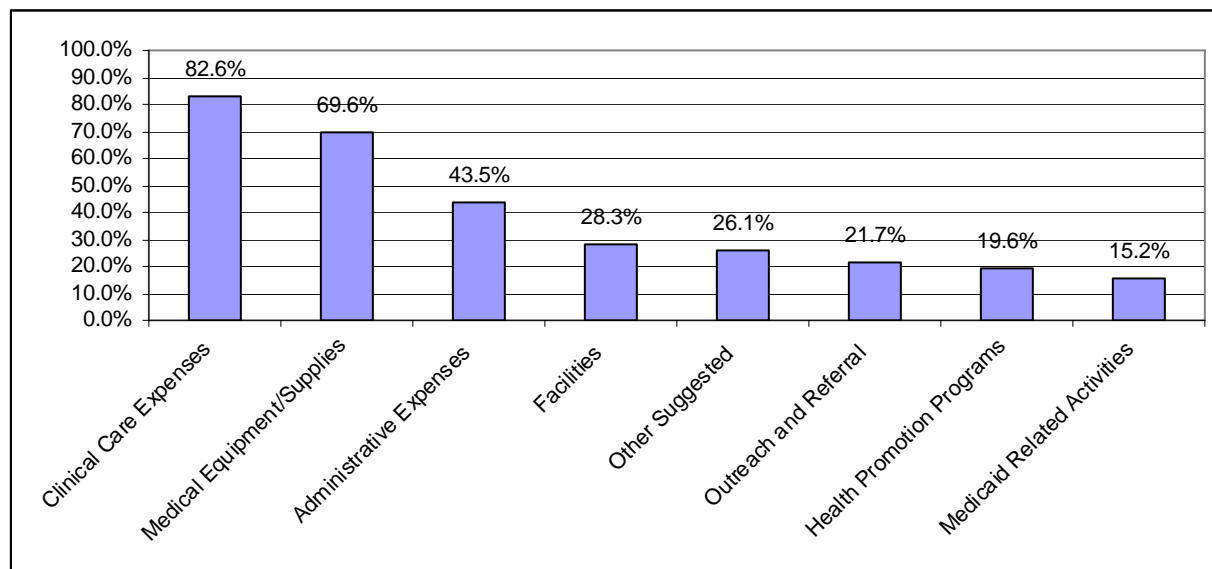


Figure 3 illustrates the difference in frequency of free clinic utilization of MDCH funds by the type of expense paid for with MDCH funds. Free clinic organizations often reported use of MDCH funds for multiple expenditure types and the percentages shown represent the percentage of all funded clinics reporting use of the funds for that particular expenditure type. Percentages shown above should not necessarily add to 100%.

In an optional section of the funding application, information was collected on the demographics of the patient population seen at each free clinic. The vast majority of clinics did respond to the optional questions.

Fifty-five percent of responding clinics reported that all of their patients are at or below two times the Federal Poverty Level (two times the 2008 Federal Poverty Level in terms of annual income is \$42,400 for a family of four or \$20,800 for an individual). Seventy-seven percent of clinics reported that at least nine out of ten patients are at or below two times the Federal Poverty Level. All responding organizations reported that some of their patients are employed full-time. Twenty-two percent of respondents indicated that at least half of their patients are employed full-time.

Data provided from free clinics on patient race and ethnicity is difficult to aggregate, but the individual components demonstrate that Michigan's free clinics collectively care for a racially and ethnically diverse population.

The vast majority of clinics reported that their patient population is mostly (greater than seventy percent) aged 19 to 64. Sixty-six percent of responding clinics, however, reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 18 years of age or younger. Seventy-two percent of responding clinics reported that at least some portion of their patient population was 65 years of age or older.

For further information regarding the Michigan Department of Community Health Free Clinic Funding program please contact:

Ian A. Horste, MPH
 Primary Care Workforce Analyst
 Phone: 517-241-9947
 E-mail: horstei@michigan.gov

Appendix – Fiscal Year 2008 Funded Free Clinic Organizations

Au Sable Free Clinic, Inc. Grayling, MI 49738	Health Intervention Services, Inc. Grand Rapids, MI 49507	Oasis of Hope Center Grand Rapids, MI 49504
Cabrini Clinic Detroit, MI 48226	Helen M. Nickless Volunteer Clinic Essexville, MI 49732	Order of Malta Medical/Dental Clinic Detroit, MI 48208
Cadillac Area Community Health Clinic Cadillac, MI 48601	Holland Free Health Clinic Holland, MI 49423	People's Clinic for Better Health Port Huron, MI 48060
Cass County Free Health Clinic Dowagiac, MI 49047	Hope Medical Clinic, Inc. Ypsilanti, MI 48198	Presbyterian Health Clinic of Branch County Coldwater, MI 49036
Cathedral Mental Health Care Saginaw, MI 48607	HUDA Clinic (Health Unit on Davison Avenue) Detroit, MI 48238	Riverside Health Clinic Three Rivers, MI 49093
Catherine's Care Center Grand Rapids, MI 49505	Joy-Southfield Community Health Center Detroit, MI 48228	Seeds of Grace Health Clinic Allegan, MI 49010
City on a Hill Ministries Health Clinic Zeeland, MI 49464	Lakeshore Community Free Clinic Boyne City, MI 49712	Shelter Association of Washtenaw County – Health Clinic Ann Arbor, MI 48107
Community Free Clinic Petoskey, MI 49770	Loving Hands Clinic Lapeer, MI 48446	St. Luke's Clinic Jackson, MI 49204
Community Health Access Coalition (CHAC) Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783	Manistee Area Community Clinic, Inc. Manistee, MI 49660	St. Peter's Free Clinic of Hillsdale County, Inc. Hillsdale, MI 49242
Dr. Albert B. Cleage, Sr. Memorial Health Center Detroit, MI 48202	MAPI Charitable Clinic Oak Park, MI 48237	St. Vincent de Paul Health Center Detroit, MI 48219
Faith Community Free Health Clinic Delton, MI 49046	Medical Care Access Coalition Marquette, MI 49855	The Free Clinic of Alpena Alpena, MI 49707
Fountain Clinic Marshall, MI 49068	Medical Outreach Clinic Mt. Clemens, MI 48043	The Free Clinic of Kalamazoo Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Frank N. Andersen Regional Eye Foundation Saginaw, MI 48603	Mercy Place Clinic Pontiac, MI 48342	Traverse Health Clinic and Coalition Traverse City, MI 49684
Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic Pontiac, MI 48342	Neighbors Caring for Neighbors Clinic Mt. Clemens, MI 48043	Wesley Health Wyoming, MI 49509
Genesee County Free Medical Clinic (GCFMC) Flint, MI 48504	Northern Care Center Cheboygan, MI 49721	Wyandotte Clinic for the Working Uninsured Brownstown Township, MI 48183
	Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek Battle Creek, MI 49014	